

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Commonwealth Accountability Testing System Data Release (includes KCCT, ACT and NCLB)

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.6453

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** Reporting for the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) in 2008 is based on revised regulation, 703 KAR 5:020, which the Kentucky Board of Education approved in February 2007. Several changes in the regulation impacted the accountability formula beginning in 2007. For example, additional grades were included in reporting for Reading and Mathematics, and the weights of content areas, non-academic measures and the norm-referenced component were changed. Instead of reporting a norm-referenced index at high school, an ACT index was reported using the 2007/2008 PLAN results and the 2008 ACT 11<sup>th</sup> grade results.

In addition to the accountability changes, several changes to the assessment program were implemented in 2007, which impact the reporting of results for the 2007/2008 biennium. The assessment was based on a revised Core Content for Assessment 4.1 and used a new design for the Kentucky Core Content Tests. Assessments in on-demand writing and practical living/vocational studies were moved to new grades, assessments in reading and mathematics were added to accomplish annual testing of those content areas in grades 3-8, and the student performance standards that define the student performance categories of Novice, Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished were validated or set in areas with new tests. The standard setting process yielded new cut points that identify when a student moves from one performance level category to another.

Because of the multiple changes to the assessment and accountability program, the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA) felt a statistical process to link old CATS (2000-2006) and new CATS (2007/2008) was necessary and appropriate. This is a similar situation to the statistical linkage made with the regression model during the changes made from KIRIS to CATS in 1999-2000. With concordance, the accountability index in 2007 and 2008 can be linked to the original school goals displayed on the Growth Chart page of the Kentucky Performance Report. The concordance process is an interim accountability process, which will not be necessary after the 2007/2008 biennium. Upon completion of the CATS data review process in fall of 2008, new baselines and goals to 2014 will be computed for all schools and districts.

**Policy Issues:**

A CATS Concordance Table connects old and new CATS by linking a nonadjusted accountability index and related percentile rank to an estimated accountability index and percentile rank. The estimated values are based on the state growth trends for elementary, middle and high schools from 2000-2006. Once the percentile ranks are aligned, the estimated accountability index becomes the Adjusted Accountability Index to indicate that the 2007 or 2008 index scores are concordant with the 2000-2006 index scores.

The Adjusted Accountability Index is reported in the Kentucky Performance Report (KPR) on a school's Growth Chart page. The Adjusted Accountability Index is a school's final score and indicates a school's accountability classification for the CATS 2007/2008 biennium. Kentucky schools received their Kentucky Performance Reports and student data on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, embargoed until the public release on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. KDE staff will present an overview of test results at the October meeting that will include KCCT, ACT and NCLB.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

The Kentucky Board of Education remains diligent in its focus on Kentucky schools and all students reaching proficiency. The Board must know the performance of Kentucky schools as it initiates programs and supports to assist schools in reaching this proficiency standard and to ensure that every child in Kentucky is proficient and prepared for success.

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education****Date:**

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